

**CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT  
FOR THE  
GREATER SUTTLE LAKE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

**By**

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## ***Background***

Prior to the arrival of Euro-Americans, the Suttle Lake area was utilized for thousands of years by indigenous groups. Ethnographic and archaeological evidence shows that Native American tribes utilized the current project area for important upland encampments. Extensive archaeological investigations on sites within and adjacent to the project area suggest that Suttle Lake played a crucial role in a vast precontact exchange network that reached up both sides of the Cascade Range and well into Western Canada. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO) maintain historic and contemporary rights and associations to the project area, which was ceded to the Federal Government by the CTWSRO under treaty in 1855 and ratified by Congress in 1859. Affected tribes were notified of the proposed project in March 2019.

Also in 1859, early Euro-American explorers seeking wagons routes over the Cascades observed Suttle Lake, which they named Butte Lake. In 1866, John Settle, an early pioneer in the Lebanon area and one of the organizers of the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road, noted the lake and its surrounding area. The lake then appeared on maps as Settles Lake. However, the name “Settles” was later changed to “Suttles”, then “Suttle”. Suttle Lake eventually became the accepted geographic name.

With the 20<sup>th</sup> century came an increase in developed recreation facilities and organizational camps on National Forest lands. Notably, the first campground on the Sisters Ranger was developed at what is now Suttle Lake Resort. With the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps came further development of Suttle Lake campground, Cinder Beach day use area, and access roads. After World War II, the Forest Service developed three more campgrounds: Blue Bay, South Shore, and Link Creek. Organizational camps also started to expand and upgrade facilities after World War II with increasing use and interest from members.

## ***Analysis***

Upon receiving project planning information and in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a Forest Service archaeologist conducted an archival and database review of the project’s area of potential effect (APE). The review showed that 24 cultural resource inventories or archaeological investigations have occurred within the project area since 1984. From these inventories and investigations, four cultural resource sites had been recorded. Of these four, three are eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places, while one is still listed as unevaluated.

Further review established that the entire APE for the project’s undertakings had been surveyed for cultural resources at least twice under an inventory strategy meeting current standards as described in the stipulations for exclusion from case-by-case review within Appendix B Item 19 of the 2004 Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the USDA Forest Service Region 6, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Additionally, much of the tree removal associated with this project will utilize existing roads, skid trails, or other hardened surfaces and will not affect any historic properties, fitting such actions within Appendix B Item 20 of the PA. Also, proposed reforestation activities will be conducted by hand and have little to no potential to affect historic properties as outlined in Appendix A Item 16 of the PA.

With the above in mind, a Forest Service archaeologist determined that as long as cultural resources that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing to the National register of Historic Places were avoided from potentially adverse effects during project implementation, no further cultural resource inventory was needed. As such, and in accordance with the PA, it was determined the project has little to no

potential to affect historic properties and is exempt from SHPO review. These findings were sent to, reviewed, and approved by the Deschutes National Forest Heritage Program Manager.

***Mitigations***

Despite previous cultural resource inventories and investigations in the project area, it should be noted that the potential still exists for unidentified resources in the project area. This is especially true for subsurface deposits not observable through ordinary cultural resource surveys. Because of this possibility, standard contract provisions should provide for protection of heritage resources discovered inadvertently during project implementation.

***Conclusion***

In summary, while there are historic properties within the current project area, Forest Heritage Preservation Specialists determined that, in accordance with the PA, the project will have little to no potential to adversely affect them.